

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th of the month.

A. J. LAMOREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

(Cash invariably in advance)

Subscription: 20\$00 per annum for Brazil, \$10.00 or £5 for abroad.

SINGLE COPIES: 600 reis; for sale at the office of publication, or at the English Book Store, No. 67 Rua do Ouvidor.

All subscriptions should run with the calendar year. EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES: 79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

Subscription and advertisement accounts will be received by

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RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 4th, 1886.

THE health of this city continues exceptionally good, but we regret to note that no adequate measures have yet been initiated toward putting it into a thoroughly good sanitary condition. All the efforts of the authorities seem to be directed to quarantine precautions. It is, of course, good policy to do everything to keep the cholera out, but epidemics have passed the most rigid quarantine before, and they may do so again. The sanitary improvements needed in this city will all be of permanent benefit, and no time should be lost in carrying them out. Of course there is no money to be made in such a work, as seems to have been done in the Ilha Grande lazaretto, or in the maintenance of the quarantine station, but the public requires it all the same. Since our last there has been a considerable increase in the number of cholera deaths at the River. The total number of deaths reported is from 40 to 45 a day, which is not as yet an alarming rate. The epidemic has, however, spread considerably, cases of it being reported from Corrientes and from Asuncion, Paraguay. The panic appears to have subsided, and the Argentines are doing all they can to check the further progress of the epidemic. In Uruguay no cases have thus far appeared. In Brazil, however, we are frequently on the verge of a panic over the probable coming of cholera. The people of Angra dos Reis are clamoring for the closing of the lazaretto because of the constant coming and going of the quarantine officials. This certainly should not be permitted. A quarantine official should be kept strictly in quarantine, and should not be permitted to pass outside. If a passenger is to be restricted, then assuredly those in daily contact with him should be similarly treated. There must be some sense used in these matters, or quarantine will prove a broad farce.

Our daily colleagues seem determined to scare the population of this city into cholera spasms. On the 29th ulto, a Norwegian bark, which sailed from Rosario on October 25th, made the port of Angra dos Reis, in the province of Rio de Janeiro, the captain having been ordered to the quarantine station upon his arrival at our port. He naturally sent ashore at Angra to know where this quarantine station is. The station is on Ilha Grande, but we do not know that the latitude and longitude have been published and the mere ordering of a vessel to quarantine, without explanations as to the geographical position of this station,

is certainly a valid excuse for the master of the Norwegian bark sending a boat ashore to enquire as to where he was to find the quarantine. The police authorities at Angra seem to have shown praiseworthy activity in driving the boat's crew away, and the result might possibly have been to keep the bark wandering along our coast, like a second "Flying Dutchman," seeking this quarantine station. This is not the first case in point. We are informed that last year vessels from suspected ports were ordered to the *Encada das Palmas*, and that this year the *Encada de Abrahão* is the anchorage ground, and that recently a steamer from the south, which last year was ordered to Palmas, sought the same anchorage this year and, failing to discover any appearance of lazaretto, sent a boat ashore. The fishermen, to whom application was made, were more sensible than the police authorities at Angra, and furnished such information as enabled the steamer to discover the quarantine station. In the case of this Norwegian bark, she was 35 days out from Rosario, certainly a sufficient time to have developed the cholera germ and have destroyed the whole crew, but we venture to predict that if this unlucky vessel falls into the hands of our customs and health authorities the freight will be severely taxed to meet the fine likely to be imposed for the infringement of the sanitary regulations. Our daily colleagues are entirely wrong in referring to such absurd occurrences as this master of a foreign vessel losing his way and deducing from it charges that the authorities are not doing their duty. Moreover, if cholera is to come here, the less said about it, the better. Fright has killed many a man, and nothing so predisposes a patient for a cholera attack as the nervousness likely to be occasioned by these sensational newspaper articles.

WERE it not that the British government is no longer interested in questions pertaining to the abolition of slavery and the slave trade, we should certainly call its attention to the recent decision of the Bahia sub-treasury, afterwards approved by the minister of finance, that Africans introduced into Brazil in violation of the law of 1831 may now be matriculated as slaves under the Saraiva-Cotegipe law of last year. This decision places the government squarely on record in the matter of holding—with the ultra pro-slavery party—that the law of 1885 supersedes the anti-slave trade law of 1831. There is and can be no good justification for such an opinion, nor do we believe that any will ever be advanced. The law of 1831 against the introduction of slaves into Brazil was enacted in accordance with a treaty convention with Great Britain in 1826, in which Brazil solemnly agreed to legislate against the traffic and to use every endeavor to suppress it. Five years elapsed, however, before this agreement was carried into effect, but its relations to the convention remained the same as though the law had been enacted immediately after the convention was signed. It was essentially a part of the convention itself, and as such became one of the highest laws of the empire and one which can not be set aside by any ordinary legislative enactment without expressly violating the treaty from which it originated. Under that treaty-law it was expressly stipulated that all Africans thereafter introduced into Brazil should be declared free and sent back to Africa, and that their enslavers should be punished. And yet, with the knowledge and connivance of the government, the African slave trade continued until 1854, hundreds of thousands of wretched Africans having been introduced upon Brazilian territory between that year and 1831. The restitutions and penalties

of the law were never carried out by the government, nor was any attempt in that direction ever initiated. The sympathies of every administration of both parties—for they were all slave-holders—were all on the side of the slave-traders, and they therefore gave all the aid and protection they could to men who were not only breaking a law of the empire, but a treaty-convention with a foreign power. Brazil therefore indirectly and constantly violated the treaty-convention of 1826 and the treaty-law of 1831 by not suppressing the traffic in African slaves, and she has openly and constantly violated the treaty-law of 1831 ever since by not enforcing its provisions for the restitution of these Africans to liberty. And now, fifty-four years after that law was promulgated, the government deliberately legalizes and confirms those open violations of a supreme law! There can be no serious defense of so immoral and illegal an act.

In commenting on this decision the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 28th ultimo says that it settles nothing and can settle nothing in respect to the law of 1831, and that the decision of the government simply transfers the competency to act in such cases to the courts. To the courts, therefore, and not to the collectors and other fiscal offices, belongs the duty of restoring these illegally-enslaved Africans to liberty. This is decidedly a novelty in political government, and if carried out to its logical ends must certainly produce strange results. It is generally held to be the duty of a government—by which we mean the executive power—to strictly enforce the law, while the duty of the courts is that of interpreting the law and deciding disputed cases. The law of 1831 was express in its terms and mandatory in character; and the plain duty of the government was to strictly enforce its provisions. This has never been done. As that law has never been declared invalid, illegal, or suspended, the government still remains bound to enforce it, and the initiative therefore remains with every executive officer of the government rather than with the courts. In our opinion, the most competent men in the country to declare these Africans free are the registration officers, to whom the slaveholders go to matriculate their slaves. The declarations of age and nativity are proofs positive of the infraction of the law, and of the slaves' right to liberty. It is therefore the duty of every such officer, as the representative of the government, to immediately declare the slave free. If the slaveholder considers this act illegal, let him appeal to the courts. As the case now stands, the government appears as the protector of the law-breaker and the oppressor of his victim, the initiative and burden of proof remaining with the slave, or some friend. This position is simply monstrous. The only honorable and just position for the government to assume is that of protector of the oppressed, throwing the burdens of initiative and proof upon the oppressor. In the great majority of cases, the slave knows nothing of his legal right to liberty and never has the opportunity for an appeal to the courts even when he does know it. And the court can take no action in the matter until the case is regularly brought before it. As the matter is now arranged—and Machiavelli could not have fixed it better—not one illegally-enslaved African in a thousand will ever secure his liberty through the provisions of the law of 1831. Argue the matter as we may, the responsibility for these violations of law and their immunity from legal action and penalty, rests with the government alone, and its present attempt to shift this responsibility and to legalize

these thousands of open infractions of a supreme treaty-law is dishonorable and immoral in the extreme. It is an act which, perhaps, fifty closes the half-century of illegal slave traffic and official dishonor between 1831 and 1854, but it is a sequence from which the country might very well have been spared.

In regard to the question of excluding local taxes from the working expenses of guaranteed railways, which is discussed by a correspondent in another column, there is no avoiding the conclusion that the position taken by the government is altogether arbitrary and unjust. We do not know of any business or enterprise where all such items as taxes, insurance, commissions, fees, etc., are not charged to the account of working expenses. They are necessary and unavoidable expenses on the part of the business, and as such are legitimate charges against all the parties concerned. This being the case, the only possible method to make these expenses proportional to all the parties interested is to make them parts of working expenses. And this is not only business-like, but it is equitable. A tax is just as legitimate a charge against the whole company as is the salary of an employé. In denying this, the government places itself in a false and untenable position, in which it not only imposes an unjust loss on private parties, but establishes a precedent which the courts will find it difficult to reconcile with any principle of law. More than that, it places the government in the position of using its sovereign power to secure an advantage in the division of the profits, or in the amount of guaranteed interest to be paid. All guaranteed privileges stipulate that when the profits exceed a certain per cent one half of the balance goes to the government. If now certain items of expense can be shifted to the shoulders of the shareholders, not only will their dividends be reduced by just that amount, but the government gains from the large balance left for division. It may not be a very large sum, in the aggregate, but the principle remains the same. Then, besides, once establish the precedent that the government may throw this or that item out of the working expenses, there is no recognized limit to the exclusions which it may not hereafter make. If it may reject taxes from working expenses, then it may reject insurance of property, the lighting of stations, the cost of books and office furniture, and reduce the number and salaries of employes. If the government does not admit every legitimate and unavoidable expense of operating a road, protecting its rights and privileges, and preserving its property, then there can be no common limit to its exclusions of items from working expenses without a constant naming and describing every such item. There are certain broad principles of law and equity which are just as binding upon governments as upon individuals, and Brazil can not ignore them without serious loss of credit and reputation. Her record has already been sadly besmirched and it is full time that a halt should be called.

THE peanut crop in the United States last year amounted to 2,750,000 bushels.

THE pork and beef packing establishment of Armour & Co., of Chicago, United States, killed during the year ending March 31st last 1,133,479 hogs, 330,652 cattle and 635,262 sheep, producing 55,142,952 lbs. of lard, 85,918,406 lbs. of salted meats, 51,508,386 lbs. pickled meats, 4,662,459 lbs. spiced meats, 8,219,630 lbs. green hams and shoulders, 54,008,729 lbs. smoked meats, 33,696,460 lbs. canned meats, and 22,461,522 lbs. fertilizers. The aggregate value of the year's products was \$43,000,000. The buildings cover 30 acres of ground, 4,000 to 5,000 men are employed, and the annual payroll amounts to \$4,000,000.

PUBLIC OPINION.

The serious manner in which legislators and journalists in Brazil are constantly referring to *public opinion* undoubtedly leads to a belief that they are persuaded that such a tribunal exists in this empire, where peccant governments or individuals may be arraigned to the benefit of their own and the country's health.

The opposition in parliament charges government with every imaginable malpractice, from collusion in electoral tricks to complicity in the savage accompaniments of slavery, from wilful waste of national resources to the dismissal of a postmaster. The government appeals to public opinion as expressed at the polls and is invariably acquitted; a considerable majority is always returned of supporters of the government.

The press fills columns with appeals, oburgations and sarcasms, all addressed to public opinion. Confidential subordinates of the government are declared guilty of all kinds of incompatibilities with the positions they occupy; the police are everything but police, and so on. The country is declared to be heartily emancipationist and desiring nothing so much as the arrival of that glorious day when slavery shall no longer exist on Brazilian soil. Mass meetings are held where fervid language is used and stirring resolutions are passed. In fact all the usual paraphernalia of influencing public opinion is apparent; but the result is absolutely nil.

To foreigners living abroad all this spoken and written rhetoric is impressive, for they cannot but believe that public opinion does exist in Brazil. To foreigners living in the country it is clearly evident that there is no such power known in the political constitution of the empire.

There are a few shrewd politicians who have constructed a species of mannikin, which goes through all the motions of public opinion and applauds rhetorical fireworks, abolition sentiments, etc. But the strings are under control and public opinion never gets out of the hands of those who are of the inner circle.

This is the only explanation of the entire absence of anything in Brazil resembling what is known as public opinion elsewhere.

The voter here always belongs to the party that is in, and majorities are transferred from one to the other party with a bewildering, and even amusing disregard of all principles save that of personal profit. The system seems to have so far suited the country, and we do not advocate its change; but foreigners abroad must learn that in Brazil we are only playing at politics to the extent permitted by our real governors.

BRAZILIAN RAILWAYS AND IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES.

To the Editor:

Sir.—I have before me the last half-yearly reports of the "Recife and S. Francisco" and the "Great Western of Brazil" railway companies. In both these I find the same miserable story of disputes with the imperial government respecting the amounts due on guarantees.

Such disputes are unfortunate to all concerned, shaking the credit of the country by destroying all confidence in the honesty of its government, and worrying and embarrassing the companies by depriving them of what, apparently with justice, they consider their clear rights.

The Recife and S. Francisco is one of the oldest railways in Brazil. For 23 years the government had, it appears, admitted rates and taxes upon its stations, etc., to be a legitimate part of the working expenses of the line. Three years ago, however, the charge was disallowed, and now the sum in dispute is £3,465.

The case of the Great Western of Brazil seems to be, if possible, still more unreasonable. The sum in dispute is nearly the same as in the former case, but would seem to have arisen during the current year.

Now, if there is a public company in Brazil that might reasonably look for fair dealing and protection from the government, it would seem to be the Great Western. It may be doubted whether any railway in the country has been more economically or satisfactorily constructed, or more carefully administered since it was opened for traffic.

Yet how has the company been treated? For a long time it had to fight against a would-be rival, being compelled to spend the resources of the shareholders, and wearing out the energies, the time and the patience of the company and its officers in defending itself against an invasion of its district, that would have been financially injurious to the country as it would have been fatal to the interests of the company. To avert this threatened invasion of its district the company has been compelled by the government to undertake, without any guarantee, a large extension of its line: an extension that will almost certainly prove to be a permanent loss to the company, but which is forced upon the company as the only alternative to a still greater loss.

The late manager of the line, Mr. Jansen, was one of the most honorable, able and conciliatory men with whom the Brazilian government has had to deal. How was he treated? For weeks before his lamented death he was attacked from day to day in the leading paper of the province in a series of anonymous letters, outrageous, scurrilous, scandalous beyond belief. Even after this lapse of time the recollection of those letters makes one boil with indignation. The least scurrilous of them would in any civilized country have subjected the publisher to fine and imprisonment. But, Sir, this was allowed to go on for weeks without a word of protest or rebuke; and when this gentle, noble-minded man had been fairly badgered to death, the government then began that system of harrassing the company which is still going on, and the results of which are seen in the fact, that a railway that was believed to have an assured guarantee of 7 per cent. on its shares, is this year paying its shareholders only 4 per cent.

English people, who had more than ordinary means of judging, had so much confidence in the directorate and management of the line, and in the straightforwardness of the imperial government, that, within a year or so of the line being opened, the £20 shares of the company stood at £27. They are now quoted at £17—a fall of more than 37 per cent. in 4 years! Those who were fortunate enough to purchase the shares of the company at the earlier date have this year received the magnificent return of 2 26/27 per cent. upon their investment!

It is well that facts such as these should be known, and it is above all things necessary that the investing public should clearly understand that what are called imperial government guarantees are in this country simply a *delusion and a snare*.

A VICIM.

November 16th, 1886.

COFFEE DISEASE IN THE PROVINCE OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

On the 18th ult., the president of the province addressed a circular to the various municipal chambers calling attention to the report of Sr. Glaziou, in which he claims to have discovered the origin of the coffee disease. Sr. Glaziou's report is of sufficient interest to warrant our translating it in full.

To the coffee planters:

After repeated investigations I have had the fortune to discover, on the plantations of "Bela Esperança" belonging to Major Belieni and "Serra Vermelha" belonging to Sr. Francisco Dias Ferreira, in the municipality of Cantagallo, on Oct. 22nd and 23rd ult., the manner in which arises the propagation of and the inoculation by the parasitic insect constituting the present disease of the coffee trees in Brazil; and, what is better, a positive and practical manner to destroy it in little time.

The cause of so lamentable a damage is a microscopic insect which lives and grows in the filiform roots of the coffee tree, introducing itself into its radial spongioles where it destroys the cellular structure of the plant in search of food, and when adult it creates in these same roots its nests, formed into knots, which reach a diameter of one to three millimetres. In these knots, or nests, the insect deposits its thousands of eggs. Concurrently the small radial fibres attacked by the insect rot away, dropping into the surrounding ground the thousands of eggs deposited by the insect and which may be compared to the *sporidia* of a certain group of mushrooms, as well from the exterior appearance as from their incalculable number.

It is in consequence of this pest that one sees the coffee plant wither, assume a yellowish color, lose its new leaves at the extremities of the branches and drop its fruit, already blighted by the deviation of the sap which the nutritive organs had condensed from the soil for the benefit of the normal life of the tree. Thus attacked the plant quickly dies, bequeathing to the soil the totality of the evil which has caused its destruction.

Such cases have occupied my attention for some five years, and even more the manner in which planters might free themselves of them, and this I have positively discovered.

It is this: examining with my own eyes through a microscope, excavating the soil myself in the coffee plantations, I recognized that the cause of this lamentable disease exists in the heaps of weeds hoed up, and nearly always drawn around the coffee shrub.

There these weeds rot, forming little heaps of humus very light and very fertile, which attract the newer roots of the coffee plant, and as there they are more tender and more vigorous than in any other place, they are immediately invaded by the pest up to the very smallest fibres in a most disheartening manner.

The heaps of humus formed by the residuum of decomposition of these weeds are later on dissipated by the rain and scattered in all the depressions of the soil, and thence their animal contents penetrate so much deeper into the porous soil, as this is proportionately fertile. The penetration is less frequent in compact, argillaceous and dry soils.

Convinced of this fact, I hasten to recommend to interested planters never to heap the weeds and leave them to rot around the coffee trees, but to scatter them between the rows, where there is sufficient sun, that they may be dried as speedily as possible, and once dried to collect them into heaps and burn them, leaving the soil of the coffee orchards perfectly clean.

If there be any difficulty in burning the weeds, it is absolutely necessary to carry them out of the orchards and place them in uncultivated spots, far from the plantations, and above all from orange trees, for these latter are also liable to attacks from and destruction by this same pest which so miserably destroys the coffee plants; the same thing occurs with the *parapara* (*manicore*) where I have also discovered the pest.

By following these indications, I am convinced that, in less than two years, the coffee orchards of the municipality of Cantagallo and of others will return to their pristine condition, maintaining a favorable position and repaying to planters and to the State a return for their labors.—Augusto Francisco Maria Glaziou.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the Rosario Reporter, November 11th.

—All the prisoners under arrest for petty offenses have been released by order of the chief of police.

—The poor circus people have been forbidden to work here and they are prevented from going to Córdoba.

—The lazaretto has been placed in the charge of a company of nurses from the Italian society "*Fratellanza Repubblicana*."

—One hundred men have been employed to clean the Riachuelo [Buenos Aires] which, as usual, is full of dead fish and all kinds of filth.

—Dr. Pedro Tiscornia, the vice-president of the municipality, has been ordered to close four cess-pools that have been found in a filthy condition in his houses in the Plaza 25 de Mayo, under penalty of a fine. Certainly, let justice begin at headquarters.

—Police-men should not be allowed to send people, however poor they may be, to the lazaretto on their own responsibility. We hear of one insisting upon the removal of a poor old man who had been in bed for months, suffering from consumption.

From the Rosario Reporter, November 13th.

—All the private schools, a well as the public, have been closed till further notice.

—The municipality collected \$160 on Thursday for fines imposed for contravention of hygienic regulations. By the bye, was Mr. Vice-President Tiscornia fined?

—What is the matter with the post office authorities who have forbidden correspondence to be received for any part of the Republic? So ridiculous a measure is only worthy of a set of panic-stricken fools.

—The cholera seems to rage or decline at the pleasure of gamblers in the gold market, who disregard every interest but their own sordid one of accumulating spoil.

—If we are to believe the mortality table of *La Capital* it is "Asiatic Indigestion" and not cholera that is the matter with Rosario. It reports no fewer than three deaths from "indigestion" to have occurred on Thursday. The rose smells just as sweet by any other name.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—Senator Silveira da Mota is reported very ill in São Paulo.

—Three criminals made their escape from jail at Franca, São Paulo, the other day, two of their guards going with them.

—The October customs receipts at Victoria, Espírito Santo, were 55,724\$822, against 16,210\$509 in the same month of last year.

—On the 24th ult., the port health inspector published the regulations of the Ilha Grande quarantine station as approved by the minister of empire.

—Various battalions of soldiers have been stationed on the Uruguayan and Argentine frontiers to prevent persons from those countries from crossing into Brazil.

—Two Norwegian vessels cleared at Victoria, Espírito Santo, on the 4th ult. with cargoes of coffee—the *Bassus* for New York with 5,000 bags, and the *Efrain* for Lisbon, f. o., with 3,841 bags.

—The province of Rio de Janeiro is going to spend 77,683\$457 to build a parish church at Sapacá, and will have to sell a railway to make the ends of provincial expenditure and receipts meet.

—During the year ending 30th September last 28 naturalization papers were granted in the province of Espírito Santo. The number naturalized before the provincial authorities since 15th January, 1883, was 142.

—The police authorities of Pará succeeded in unearthing a nest of thieves in that city on the 9th ult., and several arrests were made during that and the following day. A large quantity of stolen property was recovered.

—The provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro voted gratifications of 1,000\$ to each of two engineers, who were appointed to value the stock, etc., of the Nictheroy gas company. The president of the province says *non possumus*.

—The *Provincia do Espírito Santo* of the 6th ult. says, on the authority of a trustworthy correspondent, that the *juz municipal* of Itapemirim, Espírito Santo, has sent to the *juz de direito* a list of over 60 Africans in that place who are under 55 years of age, showing that they were introduced into the country after the law of 1831.

—The correspondent of *O Paiz* writing from Manaus, Amazonas, on the 4th ult. states that the president of the province between 28th October, 1885, and the same date this year had realized economies to the extent of 1,049,119\$589. The municipal chambers seem to have been having a good time in giving lucrative jobs to friends.

—Late advices from Amparo, São Paulo, on the Mogyana line, state that there are now over 30,000 bags of coffee accumulated in that station. And yet a planter wrote to the *Diário de Santos* the other day stating that the present São Paulo crop is not near as large as expected and will not exceed 2,000,000 bags!

—A poor Turk, who travels about peddling notions, was attacked by three armed men at Brotas, São Paulo, on the 23rd ult. Their design was to rob him. He defended himself successfully against two of them, but was finally shot and badly wounded by the third. The thieves took 435\$ from his pockets, and then fled. The police authorities did nothing to protect him.

—The directors of the "Central Sugar Factories of Brazil" company in presenting the report and accounts for the year ending 30th June last say that the working of the year shows a heavy loss. The new crop, which may be considered the first real test crop, has been commenced, and on its result may depend the future of the company. The guaranteed interest has been punctually received, the amount for the period under review being £20,475.—*Statist*, 6th Nov.

—The police in the empire are becoming intolerable. *O Paiz* of the 28th notices the fact of the arrest of a Portuguese in a village of the province of Rio de Janeiro, who was bound and brought to jail, where he was detained two days and three nights. When finally presented to the police authorities in Rio, he was discharged. There had been a mistake. If the Portuguese minister does not make this mistake a serious matter, his fellow-countrymen should appeal to the government at Lisbon.

—The directors of the "Conservative Union" of São Paulo have finally decided upon the members of their triplicate list for the senatorial vacancy in that province, which consists of two of their own number and one other. The nominees are: Councillor Antonio da Silva Prado [minister of agriculture], Councillor Manoel Antonio Duarte de Azevedo, and Dr. Rodrigo Augusto da Silva. It is thought that if the present ministry can hold on another year, it will be able to get all of its members into the Senate.

—The entrance to the port of Caravellas is to be marked with 26 buoys, 18 of which are now ready.

—Telegrams from Victoria for gunboat assistance have suddenly subsided. We fear the inhabitants have taken to the woods.

—It is reported that an English syndicate has purchased a large tract of land in the municipality of Castro, province of Paraná, for stock raising.

—The "Trapeze Esperança" at Pernambuco, belonging to Messrs. Lucas & Co., was burned on the afternoon of the 22nd ult., and 750 sacks of cotton with it. There were also many articles of merchandise lost.

—The population of Angra have suddenly become very much alarmed (we will not say "angry") over the threatened danger from the Ilha Grande quarantine station. They want the lazaretto closed against everybody suspected of cholera.

—The October receipts of the Pará custom house amounted to 867,101\$479, against 818,669\$136 last year, 667,084\$554 in 1884, and 957,591\$891 in 1883. The *recolatoria* receipts were 247,806\$868, against 242,397\$595 last year and 326,731\$885 in 1884.

—The president of Rio de Janeiro on the 23rd ult., sanctioned a law to levy a fine of 250\$ on any one who goes begging with a Holy Ghost flag in municipalities other than that where the *festa* is to be held—and the president is quite right too. This business of carrying Holy Ghost flags all over the country should be promptly stopped.

—A poor cartman happened to be loading his cart on the track of the São Paulo tramway the other day, and delayed a tram for a few moments. The managing director of the company happened to be a passenger, and immediately ordered the poor fellow—an Italian—under arrest. He was fined 8000\$ for impeding the progress of an influential man.

—The Bahia sub-treasury officials have decided that all African slaves introduced into Brazil after the law of 1831 can be matriculated as slaves under the Saravia-Cotegipe law of 1885, and the minister of finance has approved the decision. A so-called emancipation law of 1886 therefore annuls a solemn treaty law of 1831 which was adopted for the suppression of the slave trade.

—The central commission for taking the recent census in S. Paulo has received complete returns from 60 municipalities, and expects soon to receive others which are nearly completed. Unfortunately several of the most important cities in the province, such as Campinas, Santos, Taubaté, etc., did absolutely nothing, and without them the census will be very incomplete.

—On the 23rd ult., the president of the province of Rio de Janeiro signed the law authorizing the following municipal loans:

Barras de S. João.....	200,000\$
Campos.....	220,000
Rezendes.....	100,000
Valença.....	60,000
Vassouras.....	20,000
	420,000\$

—The acting chief of police of São Paulo recently went down to Santos, with a force of soldiers, after four runaway slaves who had been captured and imprisoned there. When taking his victims through the streets, the populace gathered and showed considerable indignation. One of the slaves got away and threw himself into the river, where he was drowned. A larger force of soldiers was at once sent down to overawe the people, out of which has grown very bitter feelings. The São Paulo police authorities seem to have hindered seriously in the matter.

—The S. Bernardo colony of São Paulo was recently visited by the minister of agriculture. He found there a total population of 783 individuals, [300 married], which is equivalent to about 150 families. The number of urban and suburban lots is 212, of which only 125 are occupied. The last year showed a total production of 32,982 litres of wine and 513,770 litres of beans, Indian corn, potatoes, manioc, etc., the whole being valued at 44,009\$400. This gives an average of about 290\$ per family, or 352\$ per occupied lot, as the result of the year's work—which is certainly very small.

—One of the most dastardly outrages that has come to our attention in a long time was committed in Porto Alegre on the 4th ult. Owing to the treatment received by a commission of students by the *delegado* of the inspector of public instruction, Dr. Trajano Viriato de Medeiros, the boys received that official on examination day with a shower of potatoes. The result was that a force of soldiers was called out at once, who charged on the boys with fixed bayonets! We never before heard of such a thing as suppressing a lot of refractory school-boys with an armed military force. Several boys were hurt, and the people are reported as "feeling indignant"—and there the matter ended.

—Owing to a report that the printing office of the *Diário de Santos* was to be attacked by the police because of its abolition sympathies, about a thousand citizens of Santos gathered in the street in front of the office on the evening of the 24th ult. They were induced to disperse in good order, however, but not before the police authorities became sufficiently frightened to send to São Paulo for reinforcements. On the following day a force of 75 men was sent down, but happily a conflict was avoided. The conduct of the São Paulo police authorities has been most disgraceful in this matter, and they appear to have done all they could to provoke a conflict.

—A match factory is about to be established at São Paulo, the machinery for which is said to be on its way out from Europe. The wood and chemicals will all have to be imported, of course.

—A Nictheroy paper says that 75 packages of jerked beef from the River Plate were landed on the Itaipú beach on the morning of the 24th ult. A subsequent police and sanitary investigation has failed to find the prohibited merchandise.

—At a session of the São Paulo municipal council on the 24th ult. the motion to change the name of Rua do Ouvidor to that of Rua José Bonifácio was rejected a second time, some of the aldermen urging that they must resist the clamors of the press and people because of the disrespect shown to themselves. The feeling was particularly bitter against the *Diário Mercantil*, which an alderman stated to be edited by "two foreigners who have no legal responsibility before the laws of the empire." Nevertheless, the residents of Rua do Ouvidor have voluntarily changed the name of their street, and are advertising their places of business as situated on "Rua José Bonifácio [Antiga do Ouvidor]."

RAILROAD NOTES

—The minister of agriculture has granted permission to the São Paulo Railway Co. to purchase 100 additional cars for the increased traffic of that line, the cost not to exceed 83,000\$.

—The October traffic receipts of the Macaé and Campos railway were 147,528\$930 of which 15,569\$560, from passengers, and 115,813\$800 from goods. Expenses are not given.

—The September receipts of the Paulista railway were 331,048\$740 and the expenditures 116,288\$940, leaving a balance of 214,759\$800. This increases the net surplus since 1st July to 449,942\$540.

—The D. Pedro II railway company wants advertisements for its new collection of time-tables. Not content with doing business in coals, the first railway in the empire wishes to do a little in the way of advertising business.

—The August receipts of the Bragança railway, of Pará, were 4,981\$500, and the expenditures 11,493\$360, leaving a deficit of 6,511\$860. In September the receipts were 5,204\$970 and the expenditures 11,751\$750, leaving a deficit of 6,547\$380.

—At the general meeting of the Santa Anna (formerly Pirahense) railway shareholders on the 27th it was decided to grant the directors full authority to raise the necessary funds for extending the line. Messrs. Edward G. Hine and Antonio E. Rangel da Costa were elected directors.

—On the 1st inst. at the invitation of the minister of agriculture, who presided, various engineers met to take steps for the representation of Brazilian railways at the 50th anniversary of French railways, which is to be celebrated next year by an exposition. Traffic receipts and expenses will, we presume, form a part of the Brazilian exhibit.

—The September receipts and expenses of the Viçosa railway were as follows: *trunk line*, 26,275\$789, expenditures 17,212\$180, net balance 9,063\$609; *branch line*, receipts 33,594\$620, expenditures 11,107\$664, net balance 22,486\$956; *navigation service*, receipts 13,810\$030, expenditures 11,223\$390, net balance 2,586\$640. Total surplus 34,137\$205.

—The final surveys and estimates of the "Victoria ao Rio Pardo" railway, province of Espírito Santo, were presented to the provincial government for approval on the 27th ult. together with an extension of 136 kilometres, whose construction, it is thought, will soon be begun. Some 70 kilometres remain to be surveyed by which a junction with the Leopoldina line can be effected.

—The rapid development of Brazilian railway undertakings and the immense advantage which they have conferred upon the nation should of themselves be a sufficient incentive to the government to keep faith with those from whom it has derived the means of progress; but the new regulations now enforced in reference to taxation, as illustrated particularly by the Recife and San Francisco (Pernambuco) railway, are not only somewhat startling, but likely to occasion anxiety and even distrust. Up to 1883, during a period of some twenty-three years, the government recognized without question the action of the board in following the course adopted everywhere else of treating the item of local taxes as part of the ordinary working expenditure to be set against revenue before striking the net balance, but for the past two years, for some reason which it is difficult to understand, they have been persistently struck off the expenditure account and charged upon the guarantee, although the practice of years had stamped the old course with approval. If it were simply a matter of the difference of 800\$, or 1000\$, a year, the amount which these disallowed taxes reach, possibly the subject would scarcely be worth debating; but there is a matter of principle connected with what may be almost called a breach of covenant, which is far more serious not only in the interest of the company, but also, if we may venture to say so, in the interest of the empire, the credit of which can scarcely fail to suffer under the suspicion of insecurity to which such a course of action must give rise. —*Railway Times*, October 16th.

LOCAL NOTES

—The minister of agriculture Antonio da Silva Prado reassumed charge of his portfolio on the 25th ult.

—The cable to Ilha Grande was laid on the 25th ult., and telegraphic communication was completed on the following day.

—The government has placed the gunboat *Bracomat* at the service of the hydrographic bureau for the projected surveys of the bay.

—The government has purchased Messrs. Lage & Sons' steam launch *Echo* for quarantine service at Ilha Grande for the sum of 49,000\$.

—It is just as well to drop mutton while the quarantine lasts. Robinson Crusoe liked seethed kid, but that, perhaps, was a question of personal taste.

—Perhaps the most bitter criticism on law and order in Rio is a *cuirass* exposed in a gun shop on the Rua dos Ourives marked "protection against stabbing."

—The government has closed Brazilian ports against arrivals from Paraguay, cholera having broken out in that republic. But how is this to affect Mato Grosso?

—Mail matter from the immigration society is to be transmitted gratis to foreign ports, but the amount of postage is to be deducted from the colonization, or immigration fund.

—At a meeting of the Council of State on the 27th ult., it was resolved to grant a special credit of 500,000\$ to the minister of empire to meet expenses incurred in preventing the threatened cholera invasion.

—The new gas company, not knowing what to do with their tar, are presenting it to the government for disinfecting purposes. If the government pays for taking it away, the generous company will not do a bad business.

—We sincerely trust the author of *Questões Economicas* published in the *Jornal do Commercio* will collect his articles in a book. A newspaper man himself, he must know the entire impossibility of following an argument published in pieces.

—The minister of agriculture has resolved that the Companhia Nacional steamer of the 5th of each month can go to Montevideo to land passengers and mails, but must return direct to the Ilha Grande quarantine station, without calling at the southern ports.

—The third election of aldermen in this city was held on the 23rd ult. Sr. José Patrocinio leads the list. The new chamber will consist of 12 conservatives, 9 liberals and one republican. A curious feature of the election is that two of the outgoing *pátrios* are succeeded by brothers.

—Conselheiro Francisco Belizario Soares de Souza, minister of finance, was chosen senator for Rio de Janeiro on the 27th ult. The favorite for the vacant S. Paulo seat in the Senate is Conselheiro Antonio Prado, minister of agriculture. Such uses of ministerial influence may seem a little out of place, but as both gentlemen will make good senators, there is little occasion for complaint.

—It should not be forgotten that with this month expires the time for redeeming the following treasury notes: 25000 of the "5¢ estampa," 50000 of the "7¢ estampa," and 100000 of the "6¢ estampa." The latter notes do not all contain the number of the estampa, but may be recognized by an old portrait of the Emperor in the lower left-hand corner, and a view of the "Sugar Loaf" on the right.

—The *Jornal* seems to have been badly caught the other day. A specimen of prepared paper lining from the ironclad *Aquidaban* was shown to the editor, and a great outcry was at once raised over the apparent swindle. It did not seem to occur either to the naval officers or to the *Jornal* that such lining is now being used for certain inside light work simply because it is in every way superior to wood.

—According to a communication from the administrator of the Ilha Grande lazaretto to the *Jornal* on the 30th ult., his removal from that position was due to the fact that he was too honest to suit the port health inspector and therefore incurred his ill-will. Dr. Nuno de Andrade has since advised the public that he proposes to prosecute this ex-subordinate for calumny. The latter, however, says that he has the documents to prove his assertions.

—One of the most amusing incidents of the recent controversy over the whipping of a school-boy was the report of the police surgeon, Dr. Thomaz Coelho, as to the injuries sustained by the youth. In his professional opinion the boy was punished with an instrument "*flexível e contudente*," which might have been a strap, or a switch. Some people claim that had the teacher used a cane no question would have been raised, but to use a "whip" was simply degrading!

—His Majesty the Emperor celebrated his 61st birthday on the 2nd inst.

—We are printing this issue one day earlier because of the American mail of the 4th.

—What a pity it is a *domine* does not thrash a school-boy once a month! There are millions in it for the daily press.

—Happy Uruguay! Dictator Santos has finally taken his departure for Europe. Cholera seems to have been more potent than revolution.

—A cargo of 180 metrical tons of patent fuel (*briquettes*) from the Arroio dos Ratos mines has just been received here.

—The Court removes to Petropolis to-day (3rd) for the summer season. There will soon be a general exodus of official and society personages for higher altitudes.

—Is it not possible to clean up the Praça das Marilhas earlier in the day? The rotten vegetables, etc., scattered around even so late as 11 o'clock are simply disgusting.

—We are informed that Mr. J. R. McCall, vice-consul at this port, has been appointed United States consul at Santos. Mr. McCall is now visiting the American colony at Santa Barbara.

—On the 25th ult., the minister of agriculture declares that the North Brazilian Sugar Factories company was entitled to the interest guaranteed on 298,218 15/2 from January 1st to March 6th of this year.

—The director of the light-house department has been authorized to order from England a light-house for Aracaju, Sergipe, and the cost is fixed at 24,932-5-26/18. However much that may be, we do not know.

—We are glad to see that at least one of our daily colleagues is calling attention to the plague of Italian children begging in the streets. We also might add those dirty Turkish children who infest the Largo da Carioca.

—Mr. C. Warren Roberts, superintendent of the D. Thevezza Christina railway, arrived here on the 27th ult. per *Teguer* on his return from England. He left at once for Santa Catharina to resume charge of the railway.

—How would any of our readers like to be called Christophoro Corallipio Austriuchiano? As Mr. Wegg says, we should not like any one we respected to call us by such a name. The gentleman is an elector in this city.

—The sanitary authorities have increased the quarantine on Uruguayan arrivals to eight days. This certainly seems a little unjust, far as yet no cholera whatever has appeared in Uruguay, and that country is using every precaution to keep it out.

—Senator Affonso Celso and Deputy Dito Jr. completed their quarantine obligations on the 23rd ult. and at once returned to this city. It is announced that had they not been permitted to return, they intended to offer their services to the Argentine government.

—It is said that the Emperor expressed a regret on the 2nd that the number of emancipations by the city council did not equal the number of years of his age, whereupon the proprietor of the *Páris*, Comendador João José dos Reis Junior, pledged himself to secure the liberation of the eleven slaves required to complete the necessary 61.

—Our Argentine friends have been taking their revenge for Brazilian quarantine restrictions in a characteristic way. They have sent telegrams to Europe and the United States by the West Coast line that an epidemic of cholera is raging in Rio de Janeiro. It is needless to add that the report is utterly without foundation.

—The government has granted packet privileges to the steamer to be used by J. N. de Vincenzi & Filho in bringing out 20,000 immigrants before the end of December, 1887. Instead of watching the River Plate for the coming of cholera, our health authorities had better turn a little of their attention toward Italy whence these immigrants are to come.

—Our finances are in so exulting a position that the municipal chamber of Praia Grande is going to build a tomb for Charles Rybeldes, who died in 1866. The principal claim that this illustrious dead man has on the municipal coffers seems to be his friendship for Victor Hugo and his running away from France in company with the great poet.

—We regret to note the death of another old Brazilian merchant, Mr. Ralph Henry Samuel, the founder of the well-known house of Samuel Brothers & Co. of this city, which took place in London on the 25th October. Mr. Samuel was born in Liverpool in 1809 and was therefore 77 years of age. He established the house of Samuel Brothers & Co. in this city in 1829 and resided here for a period of 20 years, returning to England in 1849. He was a prominent member of the Jewish community of Liverpool and devoted much of his time and wealth to those charities and social improvements which have so distinguished the opulent men of his race in England.

—The fright of the good people of Victoria and their piteous appeals for a gunboat are becoming really painful. Perhaps if a model were sent up from the marine arsenal it might calm them just a little.

—Our daily collisions are just at present engaged in a lively mid-thrusting contest. It is not a physically dangerous occupation, to be sure, but in view of the season and the threatened cholera invasion, it would perhaps be much better for them to combine and do a little toward getting the "mud" out of the streets—particularly in the Saude district.

—The medical police report for the nine months ending 30th September last is far from agreeable reading. According to an extract published in the *Journal* of the 26th ult., the following medico-legal examinations were made by the police doctors in this city during that period: 74 antipoxes, 36 cases of rape, 71 beggars, 100 insanity, 588 light wounds, 89 grave wounds, and 1 mortal wound. It is certainly far from a moderate record.

—A German ate too much *saure-brant* and suffered the penalties. The doctor called in to attend him, with cholera in his mind, decided that the sick man had cholera and telegraphs the health authorities to this effect. The man had a tremendous indigestion and nothing else. This all occurred on the 23rd at Cascauda, near our city. Sanitary cordons were established, railway wagons were disinfected and there was, in fact, a little *shock* for a while.

—A boy was whipped in one of the city schools the other day, and was then taken around to the offices of the daily papers by his father to have the marks exhibited. The indignation shown was almost uncontrollable. Had a slave been flogged to death, however, no one but the abolitionists would have taken the slightest notice of it. Since then the paid columns of the *Journal* have been filled with an acrimonious discussion of the affair, and a police investigation has been held.

—The government has instructed the assistant inspector-general of the bureau of "public lands and colonization," under date of the 24th ult., to prepare a book containing all useful information about the country for the use of immigrants. The book is to be published in various languages, and will be used in the propaganda which the government is preparing for in Europe. Probably there is no man in Brazil less prepared for this important task than Manuel Maria de Carvalho, the assistant inspector above referred to.

—The following extracts as published in an English paper will prove of interest: "The *Giornale d'Agricoltura e Commercio* for August reports the discovery in West Africa of a new variety of coffee plant, whose berry appears greatly to resemble that of Arabia in appearance and flavor. It grows, however, not on a shrub, but on a tree nearly 7 feet high, which develops rapidly and yields an abundant crop. Arrangements are already being made for introducing its cultivation in favorable localities." This is the coffee plant Sr. Sant'Anna Nery was after when he declared the coffee gatherers climbed the trees to collect the fruit. Sr. Nery was only a year or so in advance of the action of nature, and it seems quite possible that one may be able to sit under his coffee tree and there have the refreshing drink, just like the patriarchs.

ENGLISH GOSPEL SERVICES.

A week's special services will be held, B.V., at the Methodist Episcopal Church, Largo do Centro, commencing on Monday, 1st Dec. at 7.30 p.m. These meetings are intended for the mutual benefit of all Christians. English speaking people are especially invited to attend. The following ministers are expected to take part:

Rev. F. Young
Rev. J. M. Kyle
Rev. I. Kennedy
Rev. H. C. Tucker
Rev. E. H. Super

N.B. Further notice will be given in daily papers.

COMMERCIAL.

Rio de Janeiro, December 3rd, 1886.
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